

## Other Frequently Asked Questions - FOIA

Many times, citizens, members of the press or government officials ask us similar questions. Here are some questions that come up on a regular basis regarding the Act.

- **Can a public body charge me photocopy fees?**  
**Yes.** A public body may charge fees reasonably calculated to reimburse its actual cost for reproduction and certifying public records and for the use by any person of the equipment of the public body to copy records. Such fees cannot include the costs of any search for and review of the record, and shall not exceed the actual cost of reproduction and certification, unless otherwise provided by State statute. Such fees shall be imposed according to a standard scale of fees, established and made public by the body imposing them. Purposeful imposition of a fee not consistent with subsections (6)(a) and (b) of this Act, shall be considered a denial of access to public records for the purposes of judicial review. For a comparison, the Office of the Attorney General charges 15 cents per page for documents in excess of the first 30 pages, which it provides for free.
- **Can a public body charge me to research my request for information?**  
**No.** The Act specifically states that the cost shall exclude the research and review for the records.
- **Does a public body have to honor a “standing request” for information asking that the public body forward certain records, such as accidents reports, each month, under the Act?**  
**No.** A person cannot request that each month the public body send a copy of a particular report, such as accidents reports, generated regularly. The public body is required to respond, however, to each individual request as required by the Act.
- **Are autopsy reports of the county coroner considered public records?**  
**Yes.** However, certain exemptions may exist that permit a withholding of these records per section 7 of the Act.
- **Are office telephone records of members of a public body public records?**  
**Yes.** Telephone records of a member of a public body would be considered a public record for purposes of the Act. Certain exemptions may exist that permit a withholding of these records per section 7 of the Act.
- **Are e-mails of members of a public body public records?**  
**Yes.** E-mail records of a member of a public body would be considered a public record for purposes of the Act. Certain exemptions may exist that permit a withholding of these records per section 7 of the Act.